

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-40. (cancelled)

41. (currently amended) A composition comprising:

(a) polymer particles having

- (1) a one millimeter penetration temperature of less than about 75 °C as determined by thermal mechanical analysis; or
- (2) an unconfined yield strength of greater than about 15 pounds per square foot (73 kilograms per square meter); or
- (3) both (1) and (2);

(b) an effective amount of anti-blocking agent mechanically adhered to the polymer particles;

wherein the polymer particles comprise a substantially random interpolymer comprising:

(1) polymer units derived from:

- (i) at least one vinyl or vinylidene aromatic monomer; or
- (ii) a combination of at least one vinyl or vinylidene aromatic monomer and at least one sterically hindered aliphatic or cycloaliphatic vinyl or vinylidene monomer; and

(2) polymer units derived from at least one

- (i) ethylene; or
- (ii) aliphatic alpha-olefin monomer having from 3 to 20 carbon atoms.

42. (cancelled)

43. (cancelled)

44. (currently amended) The composition of Claim 42 41 wherein the interpolymer comprises:

- (a) polymer units derived from one or more vinyl aromatic monomers and polymer units derived from ethylene;
- (b) polymer units derived from one or more vinyl aromatic monomers and polymer units derived from ethylene and one or more C₃ or C₂₀ alpha-olefins;

or

- (c) polymer units derived from one or more vinyl aromatic monomers and polymer units derived from a combination of ethylene and norbornene.

45. (currently amended) The composition of Claim 42 41 wherein the vinyl aromatic monomer is styrene.

46. (currently amended) The composition of Claim 42 41 wherein the interpolymer is selected from the group consisting of polymer units derived from:

- (a) ethylene and styrene;
- (b) ethylene and propylene and styrene;
- (c) ethylene and butene and styrene;
- (d) ethylene and pentene and styrene;
- (e) ethylene and hexene and styrene; and
- (f) ethylene and octene and styrene.

47. (currently amended) The composition of Claim 42 41 wherein the interpolymer comprises from 50 to 97 mole percent of polymer units derived from ethylene based on the total moles of monomer.

48. (currently amended) The composition of Claim 42 41 wherein the interpolymer comprises from 50 to 97 mole percent of polymer units derived from ethylene based on the total moles of monomer, and polymer units derived from styrene.

49-51. (cancelled)

52. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 49 which further comprises polymer units derived from vinyl acetates.
53. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 41 wherein the polymer is a styrenic block copolymer.
54. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 53 wherein the styrenic block copolymer is selected from the group consisting of styrene-butadiene copolymer and styrene-butadiene-styrene copolymer.
55. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 41 wherein the polymer is a polyvinyl chloride polymer.
56. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 41 wherein the polymer comprises polymer units derived propylene.
57. (Original) The composition of Claim 41 wherein the anti-blocking agent comprises from 0.02 to 3 weight percent anti-blocking agent based on the total composition.
58. (Original) The composition of Claim 57 wherein the anti-blocking agent comprises from 0.08 to 1.5 weight percent anti-blocking agent based on the total composition.
59. (Original) The composition of Claim 58 wherein the anti-blocking agent comprises from 0.1 to 0.5 weight percent anti-blocking agent based on the total composition.
60. (Original) The composition of Claim 59 wherein the anti-blocking agent comprises from 0.15 to 0.3 weight percent anti-blocking agent based on the total composition.
61. (Original) The composition of Claim 41 wherein the anti-blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of talc, mica, calcium carbonate, finely divided silica, fumed silica, organic acids, metal organic esters and powdered polymers.
62. (Original) The composition of Claim 41 wherein the anti-blocking agent is talc.
63. (Original) The composition of Claim 41 wherein the anti-blocking agent is calcium stearate.
64. (Original) The composition of Claim 59 wherein the anti-blocking agent is talc.
65. (Original) The composition of Claim 60 wherein the anti-blocking agent is talc.

66. (Original) The composition of Claim 41 wherein the anti-blocking agent is mechanically adhered to the surface of at least about 50 percent of the polymer particles.

67. (Original) The composition of Claim 66 wherein at least about 10 percent of the diameter of an individual anti-blocking agent is embedded into an individual polymer particle.

68. (Original) The composition of Claim 66 wherein up to about 50 percent of the diameter of an individual anti-blocking agent is embedded into an individual polymer particle.

69. (Original) The composition of Claim 41 wherein the unconfined yield strength of the composition is at least about 20 percent greater than the strength of the same composition without an anti-blocking agent.

70. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 42 which further comprises up to 50 percent (by weight) of at least one other thermoplastic polymer.

71. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 70 wherein the at least one other thermoplastic polymer is selected from the group consisting of homopolymers and copolymers of polystyrene, polyethylene and polypropylene.

72. (Original) A composition comprising:

(a) a substantially random interpolymer comprised of polymer units derived from ethylene and polymer units derived from styrene;

(b) from 0.15 to 0.3 weight percent of anti-blocking agent selected from the group consisting of talc and calcium stearate wherein the anti-blocking agent is mechanically adhered to the interpolymer particles.

73-83. (Cancelled)